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ABSTRACT

The activities of the Planning and Grants Committee of the Council for Higher Education (Israel) are presented in this annual report for 1977-78. The address of the committee chairman emphasizes the need for insuring the essence and quality of Israeli higher education. The report of the Director General summarizes the committee's activities for 1977-78. Foremost on the agenda for 1977-78 were the following issues: determining the ordinary budget, determining the development budget, planning, increased contact with the universities, fostering other contacts, and initiatives for the consolidation and development of the universities. Also discussed in this report are: special allocations for books, journals, and scientific equipment; funds for special purposes; the Committee's relationship with the government, the Knesset, and the Jewish Agency; the committee's library; foreign relations; and subcommittees. Appended are terms of reference of the Planning and Grants Committee, ordinary budget of the universities for 1977-78, development budget of the universities for 1977-78, and data on students and degree recipients. Also appended is a list of committee publications and an organization flow chart. (SF)

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The Council for Higher Education

The Planning and Grants Committee

Annual Report No. 5
Academic Year 1977/78

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
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JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

APRIL 1979

THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The Planning and Grants Committee

Annual Report No. 5

Academic Year 1977/78

Annual Report No. 5

Corrigenda

page 5 line 6: applied industrial research

page 12 line 13: Certificate required

line 14: 8-9 months to study

page 15 line 3: periodicals

page 26 line 17: served as coordinators

English Language Version of the Hebrew Original

Jerusalem P.O.B. 4037 April 1979

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The Planning and Grants Committee (P.G.C.)

Members:	Professor Nathan Rotenstreich - Chairman	
	Professor Yitzhak D. Gilat	
	Professor Joshua Jortner	
	Mr. Itzhak Mann	
	Mr. Oded Messer	
	Professor Rachel Shalon	
Observers:	Mr. Uri Laor	- Ministry of Finance
	Mr. Zelig Chenitz	- The Jewish Agency (for Prof. William Haber)
	Mr. Shmuel Bendor	- Consultant
Administration:	Mr. Gedalia Yaakobi	- Director General
	Miss Ruth Silberberg	- Deputy Director General and i/c Development Budgets
	Mr. Dov Keren Yaar	- Secretary, Council for Higher Education and P.G.C.
	Mrs. Techia Karcz	- i/c Ordinary Budgets
	Mr. Uriel Turniansky	- i/c Planning and Statistical Data

FOREWORD

The Planning and Grants Committee entered upon its sixth year after a period in which events and processes exerted a powerful influence on it. However, now it is possible to pause for a moment and take stock of the main problems facing higher education in Israel which the Committee, for its part, must measure up to and for which it is charged with devising solutions.

It is up to us to maintain constant guard over both the essence and the quality of higher education. All that we do in this area must, as our guiding principle, be of the highest standard; in this there can be no compromise. Breadth may be sacrificed, but not depth. Higher education involves teaching that is anchored in research, and research that is innovative and original, that goes to the very fundamentals of the areas of its concern, that combines both substantive knowledge and methodology. Such research is designed to nourish the teaching and training given to people whose goals differ widely, the goal of teaching and research being but one of very many, but not the exclusive or the dominant goal.

Since the universities must combine within them all these different tracks, many questions arise within them with regard to the quality and the functions of the training given to students, of the part played by the internal component in study, and of that played by the component concerned with professional training, and all with an eye to the needs of society. In the reality of Israel, due to the fact that our university structure derives largely from the English-speaking world -- with all the changes that have taken place there (a subject discussed recently during a one day workshop held by the Steering Committee for Research on Higher Education) -- it became necessary for us to examine the situation constantly and test the tools we have designed. Inertia exists, and since we are aware of this, we have no choice but to measure up to the risk that we too may fall victims to it.

Where innovation is possible, we should be innovative. We should see to it that the trend towards greater openness on the part of the universites, the move to provide students with pre-academic preparatory courses,goes deeper still, with the universities identifying and encouraging potential students to study. We must see to it that the trend is not towards accommodation with circumstances, but rather in the direction of raising the level of those who intend to enter the universities so that study there becomes fruitful and their general structure directed towards improving, and not to lowering, standards. We must, too, deepen and intensify our efforts to attract students from abroad, and Jewish students in particular,while ensuring that the resources at the disposal of the universities are adequate for the successful integration of such students and that there is a dovetailing of the study component of their integration and the human-social component — all this because our universities have a special obligation to the Jewish people and its problems.

The Planning and Grants Committee has regarded it as its duty, in the light of the difficulties we presently face, to concentrate both its attention and its limited resources on certain special goals which must be given priority, at times overriding priority, in all circumstances. Thus first and foremost it is essential to ensure that the universities remain open to new academics who have the potential to reach the desired standard. Those who prove their worth should be encouraged to pursue the academic avocation. On their behalf we must make every effort to ensure that budgetary exigencies do not block their path. We have also regarded it as essential to ensure that the universities are adequately equipped — their libraries with books and periodicals and their laboratories with the equipment necessary for research and teaching.

The inability to keep pace with scientific innovation for lack of scientific literature and equipment threatens to leave us behind, with the result that we might find ourselves in a position of inferiority, a situation that we cannot afford. The comparative aspect of the situation must serve as an incentive to us to examine ourselves

and safeguard the standards that we expect of ourselves.

In the light of Israel's special circumstances which preclude us from shifting the entire burden of applied research, of research that lies in the borderland between pure and industrial research, on to non-university research institutes, we have also found it necessary to give attention to this matter. The Planning and Grants Committee has thus set up a fund for applied industril research aimed at encouraging the universities to increase their efforts in this area. We have also seen fit to encourage inter-university cooperation in areas where such cooperation is appropriate: as, for example by turning the centre for oceanography in Eilat into an all-universities project or by encouraging a common approach to the interaction between the universities and the public, or — a more limited objective — reasonable cooperation in certain areas between individual universities. In this latter connection, it is perhaps worth noting that there is a trend towards increased university cooperation in the western world; we would do well to adopt this trend while adapting it to our own circumstances.

The number of candidates for university admission has now stabilized, depending, as it does, on the number of those graduating from the secondary schools. An increase in student numbers can be expected in the mid-1980's. Yet it would be a mistake for the public to miscalculate the requirements of the universities because of a temporary absence of growth in student numbers. Rather should it look into the future and have regard for the requirements of higher education in the years to come. Thus, even in times of stringency, we must, with an eye to the future, maintain a momentum that will carry us forward to meet it. Such a period of stringency obliges us to distinguish between the important and the secondary, even if, at times, the latter too is close to our hearts. Today, five years before the expected increase in numbers, we should be preparing for it. Such preparations must involve giving thought to university teaching, the planning of disciplines, distinguishing the relationships between different areas of scientific endeavour, anticipation of the dynamics of scientific developments, an assessment of what we have and what we lack, and the retraining of qualified manpower for those areas

where there is a shortfall, or in which it is desirable that there should be further development in the future.

Since we are on the subject of exigencies, this is perhaps the place to record that the Planning and Grants Committee has kept firmly to its guiding principle that the budgets of the universities be balanced. It is no longer possible to burden the budgets with deficits. In all fairness, it must be said that the universities have accepted this principle despite the fact that, in addition to all else, they carry the burden of Government commitments not yet met because of the financial difficulties with which Government is faced.

Without wishing to reflect on others, it does nevertheless seem that, in the public sector, only the universities have, despite budgetary inroads, managed to avoid entering into deficits. The question that arises,and it is a public issue that must be faced, is how the universities will be treated in the future. It is to be hoped that the fact that they have suffered cuts, while bearing the costs of new units and schools, the establishment of which was decided upon by Government, is not a sign of things to come, but rather that there will be no more cuts. The Planning and Grants Committee, which serves as a liaison between the universities and Government and the national institutions, is convinced that there can be no more cuts. It will continue to insist that due consideration be given to the cuts of the past and their implications for the future.

In conclusion:

The Planning and Grants Committee works in close cooperation with the Minister of Finance, Mr. Simha Ehrlich, and his Ministry and in particular its Budget Department; with the Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. Zevulun Hammer; with the Council for Higher Education, of which Mr. Hammer is the Chairman. It is also in close contact with the heads of each of the universities and their central bodies. We also enjoy the cooperation of many of our colleagues in the universities, who give us the benefit of their advice and expertise.

The Committee which meets almost weekly, discusses matters brought before it for consideration. It attempts to delve beeply into the issues and at the same time to arrive at decisions that will advance the matter in hand.

The Committee can congratulate itself on the team spirit that pervades its members and their individual and joint concern for the advancement of the task that has been entrusted to them. This team spirit owes much to the cooperation of the director General and his staff who provide the Committee with the information and advice that makes fruitful discussion possible.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank all those with whom the very nature of my office brought me in close contact.

Nathan Rotenstreich

The Planning and Grants Committee -- General

The Planning and Grants Committee (P.G.C.) operated in the academic year 1977/78 with the same composition as previously, with one exception: Dr. Ramon Harel concluded his term of office on March 31, 1978 and on May 16, 1978 the Council for Higher Education elected Mr. Itzhak Mann to succeed him for a period of three years.

The P.G.C. held 34 meetings during the year, taking 103 operative decisions. The meetings included visits to six universities, four meetings with the Committee of Heads of Universities and a one day workshop devoted to the contribution of the universities to the educational system. Those participating included the Minister of Education and Culture, Members of the Knesset, heads of universities, heads of their schools of education and representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Prior to discussion of its work programme for the academic year 1977/78, the Committee reviewed the implementation of the previous year's programme and found that its decisions had in the main been implemented. A survey of the teaching and research units in the universities revealed that these accorded with authorizations given by the Council for Higher Education without any significant deviations. Cases that required clarification were discussed and straightened out.

The work programme for the academic year 1977/78 included the following main items: determining the ordinary budget; determining the development budget; planning; increased contact with the universities; fostering other contacts; initiatives for the consolidation and development of the universities.

Despite the expansion of its activities in the five years of its existence, the P.G.C. continued to function with a total staff of fourteen-and-a-half established posts, including economists and statisticians and maintenance and managerial service staff. The secretariat of the Council for Higher Education is also served by the P.G.C.'s administration. In addition to the established staff mentioned above, the P.G.C. has the services of a consultant on higher education, a legal adviser, an accountant and internal comptroller and a payments officer. These are employed on special contracts.

Projects commissioned from outside bodies included: a survey of equipment and other acquisitions in the universities; a survey on the feasibility of a central student applications system for all universities; an examination of student counselling services with particular reference to the feasibility of giving guidance to those applying for admission; a forecast of potential student numbers for the period 1977/78 to 1991/92.

In the course of the year, the Administration provided services to 27 sub-committees, of which 17 (with a membership of 85) were sub-committees of the Council for Higher Education and 10 (with a total of 82 members) of the P.G.C..

The approved budget of the Administration for the year 1977/78, including that of the secretariat of the Council for Higher Education, was ₤4,396,000. Due to unforeseen rise in prices, changes in the economy and wage increases consequent upon them, budget implementation reached a total of ₤4,474,366. The deficit incurred was covered by surpluses from the previous year, making recourse to additional funding unnecessary.

University Budgets

(1) The Ordinary Budget

The ordinary budget of the universities, as approved for the academic year 1977/78, totalled IL 2,192.8 million, with the contribution of the Government and the Jewish Agency reaching approximately IL 1,365.1 million, i.e. 62.3% of the total. Not included in the above is the cost of wage increases consequent upon wage agreements signed for the period 1976/78 which, in 1977/78, were assessed at some IL 400 million.

After four years of cuts, 1977/78 was the first year in which a controlled and minimal real increase of some 3% in the public contribution was secured.

The drastic changes in the development of the Israel economy confronted the P.G.C. with unexpected problems that necessitated increased participation in the budgets of the universities in order to ensure that they be balanced. This participation was revised as a result of the changing circumstances and their effect on the expenditure of the universities. The revision took into consideration changes resulting from a reassessment of income as against expenditure in foreign currency and the fact that tuition fees could not be increased in the middle of the academic year. It was agreed with the Ministry of Finance that the universities would receive the same treatment as the government ministries in regard to compensation for price increases, and, in particular, for increases in salaries. Following upon this, public participation in the budget of the universities in 1977/78 amounted to IL 1,656.1 million, excluding the payment made in 1977/78 in respect of the cost of salary increased in the academic years 1976/78. The total of the ordinary budgets, including payments in respect of wage agreements and special budgets, thus came to IL 3,174.9 million, with public participation amounting to some IL 2,244.7 million, i.e. 72% of the overall total.

The need to adjust the budget to changing circumstances necessitated constant contact with the Ministry of Finance, on the one hand, and the universities, on the other. Considerable progress was made in both cases: discussions with the Ministry of Finance took place on the basis of comprehensive information provided by the P.G.C. while as regards the universities -- a system of reporting was developed which facilitates constant analysis of the financial situation and study to any depth required.

A review of the balance sheets of the universities for the academic year 1976/77, showed that for the most part the ordinary budgets were balanced. The Committee has so far not succeeded in liquidating the burdensome linked debts of the universities, though some progress has been made. The P.G.C. continued to endeavour to attain a three-fold objective: balanced ordinary budgets, the total liquidation of the linked debts and balanced development. 1977/78 marked a further advance in respect of these three aims, despite unfavourable conditions.

In addition to determining the global budget, the P.G.C. also dealt with a number of other related matters, including the following:

Matching Funds: in order to encourage the universities to raise additional funds for their regular budgets, special arrangements were made for providing matching funds to contributions raised by the universities. The aim is to achieve a shift of emphasis from funds raised for buildings to contributions earmarked for the employment of additional academic staff, the renewal of equipment, the acquisition of books and periodicals for libraries and general maintenance. The matching funds amounted in 1976/77 to IL 65.5 million and IL 83.0 million in 1977/78.

Students Loan Fund: in addition to the funds for scholarships grants and loans that exist in all the universities, there is a national Students Loan Fund established in 1964 jointly by Government and five major banks. In the academic year 1977/78 Government's half share in the Fund was IL 20 million, including IL3 million from loans

repaid. The Government's contribution to the Fund is included in the overall allocation to higher education. In the academic year 1977/78, 6,387 students received loans from the fund ammounting to IL 31,252,750.

Pre-academic Preparatory Courses: IL 8.4 million were allocated in 1977/78 to the pre-academic preparatory courses to cover expenses incurred in teaching and counselling 1043 students, the majority of them with a low socio-economic background and after military service. Further sums were allocated by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Education and Culture for living expenses. These pre-academic preparatory courses are provided by universities to encourage young people, who have the potential for higher education but who lack the Bagrut (matriculation) Certificate required for university admission, to devote 8-9 months to study for the Certificate. Those successful have to compete on equal terms with other candidates for university admission. During the period of this report, a Steering Committee was appointed to examine procedures and practices in the courses and to effect improvements in them where necessary.

Financial Reporting: Following upon the examination by a special committee of the manner in which the balance sheets of the universities are drawn up, and in the light of an experiment carried out in one of the universities, the P.G.C. is in the process of drawing up guidelines for financial reporting as from the academic year 1978/79.

Budgets for 1978/79: After preliminary discussions with the universities in 1976/77, the universities received from the P.G.C. in December 1977 guidelines for the preparation of their respective budgets for the academic year 1978/79 and their financial framework. After further consultations during May-June 1978, the budgets of the universities were approved.

Earmarked Allocations: The Committee, aware that budgetary limitations and other factors have seriously affected certain areas vital to teaching and research in the universities, decided to give each university special allocations additional to its global budget, earmarked for specific purposes, viz:

a) Special Allocation for the Renewal of Academic Staff

In recent years the universities have found it very difficult to add to their academic staffs, in particular promising young scholars and researchers. This is due to the rapid growth of the academic staff during the nineteen sixties when student numbers spiralled and the university system expanded to meet the increase. The academic staff of the universities grew from 1960 to 1975 by more than 500%, i.e. an average annual growth rate of 10%, while between 1965 and 1970 the growth rate reached 18%. This means, in view of the age profile of the academic staff, an extremely low turn-over rate due to retirement in the coming decade. In order to ensure some measure of renewal in the academic staff particularly in areas where there is, or is likely to be, a high level of excellence, the sum of IL 21 million was allocated to the universities in 1977/78, each receiving IL 3 million. As for the older, better established universities, this uniform sum is intended to help them meet the severe problem of ensuring academic staff renewal; as for the younger, smaller universities, the allocation will help them to fill vacancies in their academic staff.

The allocations are earmarked for covering expenses (i.e. salary, special research expenses, and, in special cases, for the purchase of equipment and books) incurred in absorbing new academic staff of outstanding ability who fall into one of the following categories: promising young researchers in junior positions (up to the rank of lecturer) presently in the universities or about to return after study abroad; new immigrants and Israelis returning from abroad in both junior and senior grades who are not eligible for assistance from the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption; in exceptional cases, new immigrants and Israelis returning from abroad whose employment must continue to be funded after support from the Ministry of

Immigrant Absorption has ended.

Reports from the universities show that thanks to these special allocations they were able to recruit some 100 academics, the majority of them young scientists and scholars at the outset of their academic careers. This represents a growth of 2.5% in the total number of academics with the rank of lecturer or above (the total being some 3,800 full-time equivalent posts). This is in addition to the new academics given appointments by the universities from their own budgetary resources and from funds made available by the Ministry of Immirgrant Absorption for aiding new immigrants and Israelis returning from abroad.

In the light of the experience gained in 1977/78, the Committee decided to allocate the sum of IL 5 million to each university for the academic year 1978/79, earmarked in part for the continued employment of those academics engaged during the previous year (if the cost of their employment has not been absorbed into the ordinary budget), and in part for the appointment of new academic staff.

b) Special Allocation for the Purchase of Books and Journals

Recent years have seen the cost of books and journals spiralling as a consequence of steep price rises abroad and the devaluation of Israeli currency. In the past five years, the price of books abroad has risen two-fold, while the price of the U.S. dollar has risen four-fold. As a result, the cost of books has risen eight-fold, while the cost-of-living index has risen four-fold in the same period. The rise in costs and budgetary exigencies have combined to deal a severe blow to the acquisition of books and journals, this at a time when there is a virtual explosion of scientific publications. The Committee decided

on a special allocation of IL 25 million for the academic year 1978/79 to enable the universities to acquire books and pe riodicals above the level of recent years.

Governing the allocation was a key based on actual expenditure by each university on the purchase of books and journals in the years 1975/76 — 1977/78. Each university was allocated a sum equivalent to 75% of the annual average it spent on books and journals in the years 1975/76 and 1976/77 with the proviso that expenditure in 1977/78 be not less than 135% of that in 1976/77. The expenditure in all the universities in 1976/77 totalled IL 37.8 million (at current prices). On the assumption that expenditure in 1977/78 would total some IL 50 million (at current prices), the special allocation was designed to permit real growth in the purchase of books and journals. The key for the allocations was by nature of an experiment, the success of which will determine future policy.

c) Special Allocation for the Purchase of Scientific Equipment

In an endeavour to prevent serious damage to the scientific capability of the universities in consequence of a fall-off in the purchase of scientific equipment in recent years, the Committee decided on an earmarked allocation for the purchase of equipment in 1978/79. This allocation will take two forms:

(1) allocations to cover the full cost of items of expensive equipment, costing at least $ 50,000 per item, priority being given to items of scientific importance and/or serve more than one university.

(2) allocations matching the allocations of the universities from their own budgets for the renewal of scientific equipment or the purchase of new equipment for research and teaching in the experimental sciences costing at least $ 10,000 per item.

The universities were requested to submit their purchase plans, listed in order of preference and accompanied by their own budget allocations for the purchase of scientific equipment.

On the assumption that the universities will themselves budget for these items from their own resources sums that do not fall (in real terms) below those of 1977/78, which then totalled IL 100 million, the special allocations will permit an increase in the purchase of equipment in 1978/79 of some 30%. Thus it will be possible to meet at least some of the needed renewal and improvement of scientific equipment which should enable the universities to maintain international standards in research and teaching.

(2) The Development Budget

The universities were requested to formulate their academic development plans and the physical development that these would entail. Guidelines were provided for the submission to the P.G.C. of requests for the approval of plans and budgets for development.

Each request for approval is examined from four different aspects: the needs of the university; the requirements of the economy and the well being of society and its security; the investment required and the availability of resources; the influence of the project on current upkeep costs. The universities were reminded that they require the authorization of the Committee in advance for every development project, even when no request is made for Government participation in its funding.

At the same time, a multi-year plan for the period 1977/78 to 1980/81, relating to buildings entitled to Government support, was agreed upon with the Ministry of Finance. These include some 20 buildings in various stages of construction and totalling some 200,000 square metres. This plan includes some 85,000 sq. metres of building on Mount Scopus, which has been recognized as a national project, and

in respect of which a special agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Finance and the Hebrew University, which provides for financing to come from donations and a special Government allocation.

The multi-year plan includes the completion of the projects designated for this period and the liquidation of Government commitments not yet met. In the terms of the plan, Government is to allocate annually the sum of IL 140 million (at average 1977/78 prices), in addition to the special allocation in respect of Mount Scopus.

The total development budget for 1977/78 amounted to approximately IL 400 million. The major part of the budget — about IL 240 million — was for the agreed multi-year programme, about IL 90 million for projects financed entirely by donations and IL 80 million for the Mount Scopus project.

In 1977/78, Government allocation to cover its participation in development projects totalled IL 167 million, including special allocations for past commitments and the special allocation for Mount Scopus (totalling IL 20 million). This is to be compared with the IL 500 million (at 1978 prices) allocated in the years 1971-1974. Most of the sum was earmarked for rounding off of Government commitments outstanding amounting to IL 200 million as of the end of 1976/77.

In the course of 1977/78 there were, in various stages of construction, buildings totalling some 200,000 sq. metres (of these, 80,000 sq. metres on Mount Scopus). Of this area some 45,000 sq. metres were completed by the end of 1977/78.

Funds for Special Purposes

(a) The budget of the National Foundation for Basic Research in the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities was increased by 150 percent.

(b) The Barecha Fellowships for Young Scientists.
The Barecha Fund acceeded to the request of the P.G.C. to aid in the absorption by the universities to 15-16 young scholars and researchers

of promise by awarding them fellowships.

The fellowship, equivalent to the salary of a lecturer or a senior lecturer, as the case may be, is awarded for a three-year period. However, renewal of the fellowship after the first and second years is dependent upon a progress report on the recipient submitted by the university to the P.G.C. at the end of each of these years. In addition to the fellowship, a further grant may be awarded to cover expenses concerned with the fellow's research. The fellow undertakes to devote himself full time to his work in the university. The university, for its part, undertakes to absorb the cost of the fellow in its ordinary budget at the latest at the end of the three year period.

Each university was entitled to submit up to 10 candidates from among its own graduates and scientists, from Israeli researchers and scholars returning from abroad or new immigrants, none of them having a university appointment.

Applications were processed by two selection committees set up by the P.G.C., one for the humanities and social sciences and the other for the natural sciences and technology. 57 candidates were presented by the universities, 21 in the humanities and social sciences and 36 in the natural sciences and technology. Seven fellowships were awarded in the humanities and social sciences and 9 in the natural sciences and technology.

(c) The Fund for Applied-Industrial Research in the Universities. This fund was set up by the P.G.C. on the recommendation of its sub-committee on applied-industrial research in the universities with the object of encouraging such research in the universities. The Fund will support research projects in engineering and the natural sciences which have technological application potential but which have not reached the stage of industrial development. The fund will also support the development in the universities of centres of expertise in applied-industrial research likely to facilitate the absorption and application of new technologies important for Israel. The Fund

will encourage cooperation between the universities, industry and government research institutes.

The directorate of the Fund includes: a representative of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, the Director of the National Council for Research and Development, an industrialist and three representatives of the P.G.C. The basis of the Fund's operation is a sum of IL 6 million allocated by the P.G.C. It is hoped that industrial organizations will join the Fund and make their contribution to it. The first research grants were awarded for the academic year 1978/79.

(d) The Fund for the Encouragement of Cooperation in Middle Eastern Studies between Israel and Other States:
The Fund was established following upon discussions initiated by the P.G.C. with the heads of the four universities which have Middle Eastern Studies on the basis of a programme prepared by a working-party composed of representatives of these universities.

An inter-university committee was set up comprising representatives of the universities, the Inter-university Study Group for Middle Eastern Affairs and the P.G.C. On this committee's recommendation, the Fund gave financial support in 1977/78 to two international conferences held respectively in the universities of Tel Aviv and Haifa. The inter-university committee also awarded fellowships to three scientists from abroad who spent two to three months on research in Israel, two of them at the Shiloah Institute in Tel Aviv and the third at the State Archives in Jerusalem.

(e) Funds were reserved for research projects likely to contribute to national security presented by university scientists.

The Council for Higher Education

The P.G.C. worked in close cooperation with the Council for Higher Education and its Chairman, the Minister of Education and Culture, with whom regular meetings were held on problems that arose from time to time.

In the year under review, the P.G.C. submitted to the Council its recommendations with regard to the following: the introduction in Tel Aviv University of a course for teachers of the hard-of-hearing; the introduction of business management studies for the degree of Bachelor; the introduction of veterinary medicine; the Department of Computer Sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; the award of the degree of Ph.D. in the natural sciences and technology in the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; the award of the degree of Bachelor in the humanities and social sciences in the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

The powers of the Council for Higher Education cover not only the universities but also other institutions of higher education that have received from the Council a licence or accreditation, while the P.G.C.'s activities are confined to the regular universities and the Open University. Discussions are in progress on how the affairs of the non-university institutions of higher education are to be handled.

The Universities

1) The P.G.C. is in regular contact with the chairman of the Committee of Heads of Universities. (C.H.U.)

During the year under review four meetings were held with the plenum of the C.H.U. in which the following subjects were discussed: forecasts of potential student enrollment; the activities of the universities in development towns; the coordination of fund-raising abroad; the admission of more students from abroad; measures to assist Israelis returning from abroad; budgetary difficulties; economy and efficiency.

2) In the course of the year, representatives of the universities met with the P.G.C. for discussions on key problems such as additional budgetary allocations as a result of new wage agreements, while representatives of individual universities came to the P.G.C. for discussions on their own special problems, such as their development or the introduction of a summer term. There were also contacts at different levels to discuss current problems.

3) Visits to Universities — as in previous years, the Committee visited the universities, to discuss problems of special concern to each university and others common to all of them, to meet members of the academic staff and, in the course of discussions, to explain and clarify the Committee's own policies and procedures. Visits were paid to six universities. The visit to the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was postponed until after the conclusion of discussions in the Council for Higher Education on matters relating to this university, while for technical reasons the visit to the Open University was also deferred.

Prior to each visit, the university was asked to submit to the Committee its academic development programme for the next three to five years. It was also suggested that the programme of the visit should include a meeting with members of the governing bodies on which members of the public sit. The Committee met with such representatives of the public in three universities. It is to be hoped that in the future there will be increased participation of the representatives of the governing bodies, who have much to contribute to the discussions.

The programme included a visit to some installation. The meeting at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem took place at the Mount Scopus campus, where explanations were given on the progress of the building programme and the departments to be housed on the campus. At the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Committee visited the laboratories for holography and applied optics and also heard explanations on the Institute's work with laser beams and their applications. At the Technion I.I.T., the Committee visited laboratories dealing with the exploitation of agricultural waste and sewage. At Bar-Ilan University, a visit was made to student dormitories, lecture rooms and the laboratory for environmental biology. At Haifa University, the visit included the student dormitories and the Eshkol Tower. Discussions at Tel-Aviv University were prolonged, and, in consequence, the planned visit to the Botanical Gardens did not take place. During the visit to Haifa University, the Committee met with representatives of the student body. Subjects discussed included the transition from

trimestral to semestral studies, the shortage of dormitory accommodation, the relations between Jewish and Arab students and cooperation between the student unions of the University and its neighbour the Technion.

The following survey deals with some of the issues common to all the universities.

Academic Development: in discussions relating to academic development plans, it was claimed on, the one hand, that academic planning is impossible if the universities do not possess information on the budgets that will be at their disposal over a three to five year period. On the other hand, it was contended that it is impossible to assess resources required over such a period without some idea of academic development plans, since these latter also have implications for physical development. Even when academic development plans were submitted, the Committee remarked that some universities experienced difficulty in determining orders of priority between the development programmes presented by the various faculties.

In the view of the universities, there are other factors that influence their academic development, the most important being their inability to recruit to their academic staffs brilliant young researchers in general and for centres of excellence in particular. There are two reasons for this — the more important being the low age profile of the present academic staff. The second reason is the budgetary cuts of the past few years, which have seriously affected libraries and the renewal of basic equipment. These, if not remedied speedily, threaten academic standards which it would be difficult to make good.

The Committee was fully alive to the situation and had already decided on a series of measures in the areas mentioned.

Academic development planning involves, in the opinion of the Committee, not only expansion but also contraction. The Committee reminded the universities that the opening of new units requires authorisation in advance by the Council for Higher Education and that in consequence there should be no announcement of the opening of new units

before such permission has been obtained.

Research: Prominence was given to a discussion on the manner in which the universities might increase their contribution to research likely to benefit industry. The universities were told of the efforts of the Committee to set up a special fund for this purpose.

As for research in general, two opposing views were expressed by the academics. One was that basic research should be financed by a central fund for basic research which would make grants to research projects presented by scientists. In this case, the allocations of the P.G.C. to the universities would not include funds for research. The other view was that the present situation is preferable, i.e. that the P.G.C.'s global allocation to the university take into consideration their basic requirements for research, while, at the same time, scientists can present research projects to the National Foundation for Basic Research in the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Student Dormitories: The demand for dormitories is increasing because of the steeply rising prices for accommodation in the open market. The Committee would give the matter further consideration. However, in principle, the Committee is of the opinion that first priority must go to the requirements of the universities for teaching and research rather than to additional student accommodation.

Overseas Students: The encouragement of students from abroad to study in Israel is desirable in its own right, all the more at a time when the university population is more or less static. However, there does exist the complication of lack of student accommodation.

Pre-Academic Preparatory Courses: The Committee was particularly interested in the situation in these courses in the various universities. The Centre for Pre-Academic Courses had still not fully implemented the recommendations made by the sub-committee headed by Prof. Yitzhak Gilat and approved in principle by all the relevant parties. More could be done to attract greater numbers of students with a low socio-economic background.

External Studies: The universities offer an increasingly large number of extra-cirricular courses, to the point where it is beginning to be difficult to distinguish them from the regular academic courses that require the authorization of the Council for Higher Education. Further, the implications of these courses for the regular academic courses, for university budgets and academic staffs have not yet been examined.

Inter-University Cooperation: Financial exigencies should lead to increased inter-university cooperation-particularly where universities are close geographically-in the utilization of equipment and libraries as well as in courses offered to students. Such cooperation might well include central application for university admission.

The Universities for the National Educational System: The Committee emphasised the duty of the universities, and particularly of their Schools of Education, to give high priority to serving the needs of the country's overall education system.

The Government and the Knesset

The Committee maintained close contact with the Minister of Education and Culture and the Minister of Finance; with the Director General of the Ministry of Finance; the Director of Budgets and his staff and the Accountant General's office. Discussions were also held with the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption with regard to the absorption by the universities of immigrant scientists and Israelis returning from studies and research abroad.

The Chairman of the Committee and the Director General participated in meetings of the Knesset Education Committee and its Finance Committee when these discussed higher education and its budgets and provided answers to questions raised by their members. The Fourth Annual Report of the Committee and the volume relating to higher education in the State Budget for the fiscal year 1978 served as background material for these discussions.

Representatives of the administration of the P.G.C. appeared before the Knesset Committee for State Control when it discussed the report of the State Controller on the work of the P.G.C., the central issue under discussion being the division of responsibility for the physical development of the universities between the Ministry of Finance and the P.G.C.

The Jewish Agency

The Jewish Agency's observer at the meetings of the P.G.C. reported on them to the Agency and to the P.G.C. on the work of the Agency's Committee on Higher Education. The P.G.C. also met with the Chairman of the Agency's Committee for Higher Education and with other members of the Jewish Agency Executive on matters of common interest.

The Library

The P.G.C.'s library is open to all interested in higher education. It contains:

- approximately 1,000 books and publications on subjects related to higher education, its aims, policies, areas of operation, planning, budgeting etc., including both theoretical and documentary material on the higher education systems in other countries;
- 25 journals on subjects related to higher education;
- year books and courses of study of all the universities in Israel;
- current surveys of the research activities of the universities;
- annual reports of the universities;
- budgets and financial reports of the universities;
- books and publications in relevant areas - national economic planning, manpower planning, the general educational establishment, the public sector.

In addition, information on developments in higher education in other countries was brought to the attention of the President of the State of Israel, the Minister of Education and Culture and senior officials of his Ministry, the President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Presidents, Rectors, Deans of faculties and Heads of departments of the universities, the National Council for Research and Development, the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Senior Scientist of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, the observers of the Ministry of Finance and the Jewish Agency, the members of the P.G.C. and its staff — according to their respective fields of interest.

Sub-Committees

The sub-committees of the P.G.C. have as their objective the promotion of cooperation, coordination and economy. Serving on the sub-committees were representatives of the P.G.C., the universities, government departments, other institutions and individual experts — all depending on the terms of reference of the sub-committee. As a rule, members of the staff of the P.G.C. served a coordinators of the sub-committees.

The following sub-committees functioned during the year under review:

The inter-institution sub-committee for statistics, the main functions of which are to draw up an agreed uniform set of concepts, definitions and categories for statistical data on higher education and to ensure maximum reliability of such data.

The sub-committee for criteria for the allocation of funds to the universities.

The sub-committee of the Heads of Schools of Education of the universities for inter-university coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture in all that concerns the training and advancement of teachers.

The sub-committee for the promotion of cooperation between university libraries with a view to economy.

The sub-committee for preparing a forecast of Israel's requirements in research manpower.

The inter-university committee for the promotion of cooperation between Israel and other States in Middle Eastern Studies.

The sub-committee for planning the computer network in the universities, approving projects of expansion and encouraging inter-university cooperation in the exploitation of the network.

The sub-committee for cooperation in teaching and research in oceanography with a view to maximum utilisation of existing and potential resources.

The steering committee to survey, initiate and coordinate research projects on higher education in Israel.

The steering committee to prepare a unified financial accounting system for the universities.

Foreign Relations

The Committee maintained contact with organizations abroad, both international and others. The former included the International Documentation Centre for Higher Education in Boston, U.S.A., Unesco's European Centre for Higher Education, the Centre for Research and Innovation in Education of the O.E.C.D., the Council of Europe's Committee for Higher Education and Research.

Connections with other organizations included, inter alia, in Britain: the Ministry of Education and Science, the University Grants Committee and the Open University; in the United States: Berkeley University's Centre for Research on Higher Education and the Yale University Group for Research on Higher Education; Canada: The Ontario Universities Council and the University Council of British Columbia; Australia: the Universities Commission; Sweden: the National Council for Universities and Colleges.

Publications of the Planning and Grants Committee were sent to some sixty individuals and institutions abroad.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference of the Planning and Grants Committee

1. To be an independent body between the Government and the national institutions, on the one hand, and the institutions of higher education, on the other, in all matters relating to allocations for higher education.

2. To propose the ordinary and development budgets for higher education, taking into account the needs of society and the State, whilst safeguarding academic freedom and assuring the advancement of research and learning.

3. To have exclusive authority to allocate to the institutions of higher education the global approved ordinary and development budgets.

4. To propose to Government and to the Council for Higher Education plans for the development of higher education, including their financing.

5. To promote efficiency in the institutions of higher education and coordination between them with a view to eliminating superfluous duplication and encouraging economy.

6. To ensure that budgets are balanced and that there are no deviations from them.

7. To express its opinion to the Council for Higher Education before the Council reaches a decision on the opening of a new institution or a new unit having financial implications in an existing institution. The considered opinion of the P.G.C. will include answers to the following two principal questions:

   (a) Is there a need for the new institution or for the

new unit?

(b) What are the financial implications of opening the new institution or the new unit? The P.G.C. will determine whether the opening of the new unit has or has not financial implications.

Annex 2

Ordinary Budget of the Universities (1)

(I.L. millions)

	1977/78, Original Budget				1977/78, Revised Budget			
	Approved Budget	Participation through P.G.C. Ordinary Budget	Participation through P.G.C. Earmarked(2) Allocations	Income From Other Sources	Approved Budget	Participation through P.G.C. Ordinary Budget	Participation through P.G.C. Earmarked(2) Allocations	Income From Other Sources
Grand Total	2,383.7	1,461.5	153.0	769.2	2,788.2	1,750.4	171.2	866.6
Ordinary Budget of the Universities	2,192.8	1,365.1	153.0	674.7	2,575.6	1,951.1	171.2	753.3
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	641.6	380.0	60.5	201.1	729.4	454.0	67.6	207.8
Technion, I.I.T.	371.0	260.0	15.9	95.1	444.8	314.0	32.2	108.6
Tel-Aviv University	428.0	285.0	23.6	119.4	509.5	355.0	21.0	133.5
Bar-Ilan University	193.6	113.6	12.1	67.9	226.1	138.6	12.0	75.5
Haifa University	142.0	93.0	7.9	41.1	160.8	115.0	7.7	38.1
Ben-Gurion University	166.0	122.0	6.4	37.6	201.4	148.0	6.4	47.0
Weizmann Institute of Science	250.6	111.5	26.6	112.5	303.6	126.5	34.3	142.8
Other Budgets	190.9	96.4	-	94.5	212.6	99.3	-	113.3
Everyman's University	46.8	13.5	-	33.3	64.0	14.3	-	49.7
Institute for Desert Research	7.0	5.0	-	2.0	8.1	5.5	-	2.6
Miscellaneous (3)	137.1	17.9	-	59.2	140.5	79.5	-	61.0

(1) Not incl. the cost of salary agreements for 1976/78, estimated at 400 million I.L.

(2) Earmarked allocations in the approved budget include academic development, matching funds and other projects.

(3) Students Loan Fund, National Foundation for Basic Research, consolidation of debts, the administration of P.G.C., etc.

Annex 3

Development Budget of the Universities - (1976/77 - 1977/78)

(I.L. millions, current prices)

	1976/77		1977/78	
	Actual (1) Investments	Government Participation	Estimated Investments	Government Participation (2)
Total	300.8	128.5	413.0	166.8
Hebrew University of Jerusalem(3)	108.6	29.0(3)	165.0	40.0(3)
Technion, I.I.T.	80.0(4)	30.0	135.0(4)	39.0
Tel-Aviv University	37.3	10.0	45.0	39.8(2)
Bar-Ilan University	11.9	4.0(5)	13.0	5.5(5)
Haifa University	21.9	28.0	10.0	5.0
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	29.7	19.5(2)	30.0	26.7(2)
Weizmann Institute of Science	10.8	8.0	5.0	10.0
Everyman's University	0.6	—	10.0	0.8

(1) Source: Financial reports of the universities, incl. construction, installations and furniture in new buildings, not incl. basic scientific equipment financed from ordinary budget.

(2) Incl. special allocations for the payment of debts.

(3) Incl. the campus on Mount Scopus, which has been defined as a project of special national importance.

(4) After deduction of estimated commitments pending.

(5) Incl. participation in the acquisition of a new computer (the cost of which is included in the ordinary budget).

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Annex 4

Students in the Universities
(1969/70 - 1977/78)

University	1969/70	1970/71	1972/73	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
Absolute Numbers							
Total	36,239	40,087	48,942	52,088	52,510	52,980	54,060
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	12,960	13,962	15,819	14,665	13,850	13,075	13,180
Technion, I.I.T.	6,100	6,922	8,345	8,471	8,650	8,810	8,760
Tel-Aviv University	8,250	8,978	12,264	13,004	12,700	12,900	13,530
Bar-Ilan University	4,356	4,775	5,771	7,246	7,500	7,900	8,150
Haifa University	2,839	3,087	3,405	4,802	5,350	5,700	5,920
Ben-Gurion University	1,315	1,834	2,762	3,308	3,900	3,950	3,960
Weizmann Institute of Science	419	529	576	592	560	645	560
Percentages							
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	35.8	34.8	32.3	28.2	26.4	24.7	24.4
Technion, I.I.T.	16.8	17.3	17.0	16.3	16.5	16.6	16.2
Tel-Aviv University	22.8	22.4	25.1	25.0	24.2	24.3	25.0
Bar-Ilan University	12.0	11.9	11.8	13.9	14.3	14.9	15.1
Haifa University	7.8	7.7	7.0	9.2	10.2	10.8	11.0
Ben-Gurion University	3.6	4.6	5.6	6.3	7.4	7.5	7.3
Weizmann Institute of Science	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.0

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

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Annex 5

Recipients of Degrees[1] -(1969/70 - 1977/78)

University	1969/70	1971/72	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
			Absolute Numbers				
Total	5,566	7.487	8.675	8,799	9,665	10,144	9,799
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	2,622	2,854	3,101	3,124	3,133	3,094	2,970
Technion, I.I.T.	1,032	1,135	1,440	1,372	1,396	1,433	1,647
Tel-Aviv University	1,203	1,963	2,055	1,995	2,398	2,754	2,461
Bar-Ilan University	423	778	746	813	1,075	1,023	1,124
Haifa University	187	527	764	842	851	938	716
Ben-Gurion University	23	145	469	537	685	771	792
Weizmann Institute of Science	76	85	100	116	127	131	89
			Percentages				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	47.1	38.1	35.7	35.5	32.4	30.5	30.3
Technion, I.I.T.	18.5	15.2	16.6	15.6	14.5	14.1	16.8
Tel-Aviv University	21.6	26.2	23.7	22.7	24.8	27.2	25.1
Bar-Ilan University	7.6	10.4	8.6	9.2	11.1	10.1	11.5
Haifa University	3.4	7.1	8.8	9.6	8.8	9.2	7.3
Ben-Gurion University	0.4	1.9	5.4	6.1	7.1	7.6	8.1
Weizmann Institute of Science	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.9

(1) Incl. recipients of diplomas

Source: Central Bureau of Statistice

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Annex 6

PUBLICATIONS

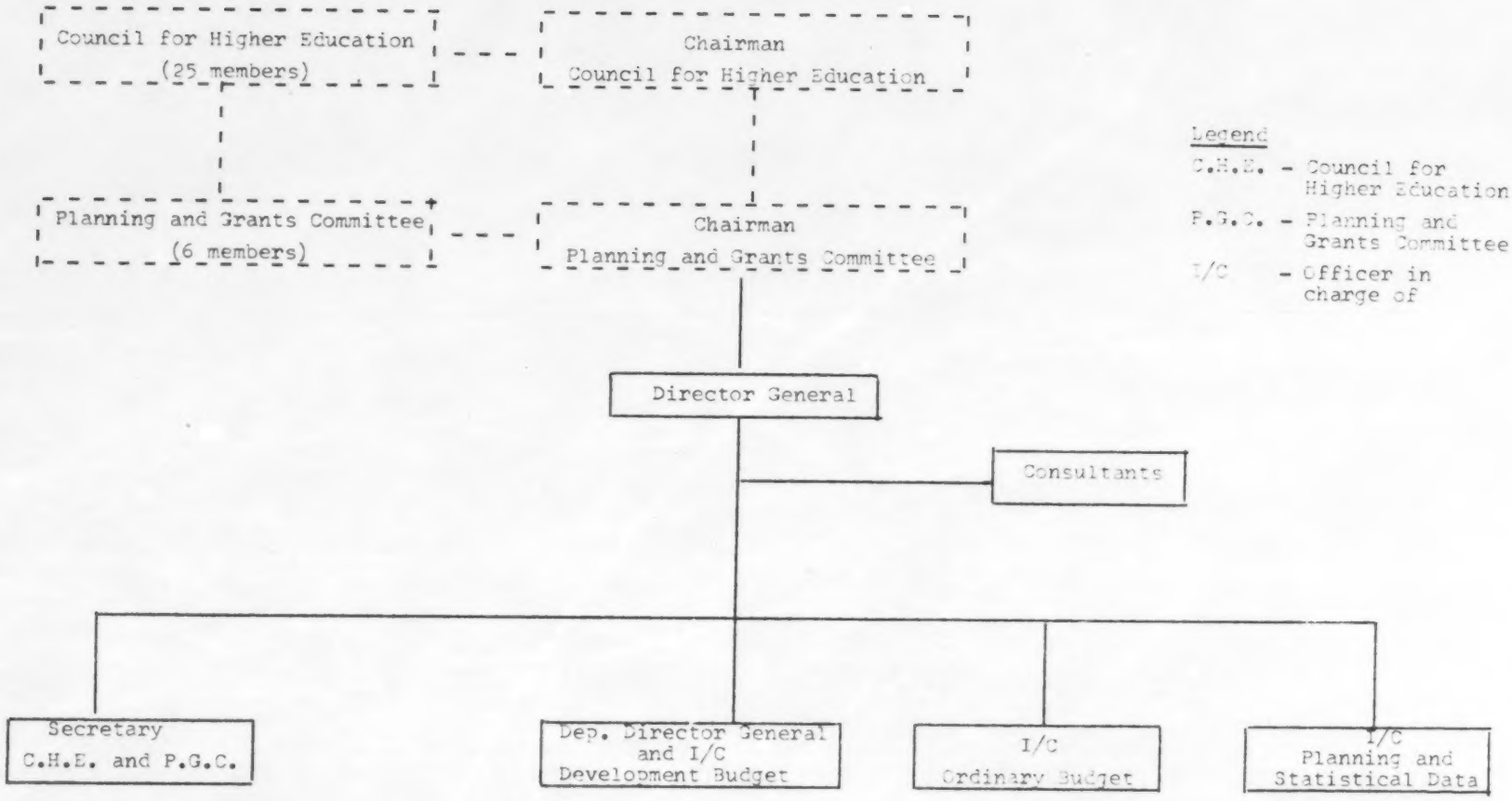
1. The Annual Report of the Planning and Grants Committee No. 4, Academic Year 1976/77 -December 1977 (Hebrew)
2. The Annual Report of the Planning and Grants Committee No. 4, Academic Year 1976/77 -December 1977 (English)
3. A Forecast of Potential New Students for the Period 1976/77 to 1981/82. -February 1978 (Hebrew)
4. Proposal for Financial Reporting Procedures in Tel-Aviv University -June 1978 (Hebrew)
5. Higher Education in Israel: a Bibliography: Vol. 1 -June 1978 (Hebrew), Vol. 2 -January 1979 (Hebrew)
6. The Annual Report of the Planning and Grants Committee No. 5, Academic Year 1977/78 -February 1979 (Hebrew)
7. The Annual Report of the Planning and Grants Committee No. 5, Academic Year 1977/78 -April 1979 (English)
8. Higher Education in Israel - Statistical Abstract, 1977/78 -April 1979 (Hebrew and English)
9. Students Loan Fund -April 1979 (English)

The above publications can be obtained on request from:

The Planning and Grants Committee
P.O.B. 4037, Jerusalem 92188
Israel

Annex 7

Organization Chart



Legend

C.H.E. - Council for Higher Education

P.G.C. - Planning and Grants Committee

I/C - Officer in charge of

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